Generation of tidal energy

1519. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to generate tidal energy in the country;

(b) whether Government have formulated any scheme for generating affordable energy from sea waves; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, indicating the status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal from West Bengal Renewable Energy Development Agency, Kolkata to set up a tidal power plant of 3.65 MW capacity at Durgaduani Creek in Sunderbans, West Bengal on experimental basis. Kalpasar Project of Government of Gujarat also envisages generation of tidal power in Gulf of Khambat.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Presently, there is no scheme for generating energy from sea waves on commercial basis formulated by the Government. National Institute of Ocean Technology, an organization under Ministry of Earth Sciences has set up an experimental wave energy demonstration plant at Vizhinjam, Kerala. It generates 20 to 30 KW of power. The wave energy over Indian coast is not cost effective.

Workers in food processing industries

†1520. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of workers working in the food processing industries in the country, at present;

(b) the number of those, out of the above, who are working in the unorganized sector; and

(c) what has been the overall growth rate of this industry during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) As far as large and medium scale industries in food processing sector are concerned, based on the Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum (IEMs) and Letters of Intent (LOIs)/Direct Industrial Licenses (DILs) filed with the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, the year-wise details of proposed employment during 2004 to 2006 has been as follows:

Year	Number of units(IEMs/LOIs)	Proposed Employment
2004	241	21286
2005	247	25409
2006	270	31665
TOTAL:	758	78360

SOURCE: Deptt. of Industrial Policy and Promotion

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

As regards food processing industries in Small Scale sector is concerned, according to information available from the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, the employment in the food processing units during 2005-06 is estimated to be around 42.87 lakhs. Out of the above, those who are working in the unregistered sector is estimated to be around 32.24 lakhs.

(c) The data for the growth rate of the food processing industries during the current year 2007-08 is not available. However, the average GDPgrowth rate of the food processing industries during the first four years of the Tenth Plan period (upto 2005-06) was @ 13.025% at current prices and @ 6.75% at 1999-2000 prices.

Upgradation of Cochin University

1521. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to upgrade the Cochin University of Science and Technology into an institute of national importance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken in this regard; and

(d) the benefits that would accrue including the financial assistance, by upgrading the status of the University?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) Based on the recommendation of Prof. S.K. Joshi Committee and Prof. Anandakrishnan Committee, Government is considering upgradation of the Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) into an Institute of National Importance as part of a system of Indian Institutes of Engineering Science and Technology (IIEST). A sum of Rs. 10.00 crores was released to CUSAT during the financial year of 2006-07.

Books on sex education

†1522. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government intend to effect some changes in the books on sex education prescribed in the schools throughout the country with the help of UNESCO/UNO;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the details thereof; and

(d) the objectives behind imposing sex education on the students despite strong opposition to it throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) There is no book on sex education prescribed in the schools throughout the country. However, Ministry

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.